



## Letter From Our Head Teacher

For some people the short days, long nights and cold weather makes December a difficult time to cope with. For others, the excitement of Christmas and opportunity to spend time with loved ones makes December a month that they look forward to each year. This is just one example of how, as a population, we can vary greatly. As you can imagine, we are a school with nearly one thousand students, and as such have a wide and diverse student population, all with different opinions and views. I am incredibly proud of our school community and how students embrace the school value of 'respect' and celebrate each other's differences.

On Tuesday I was honoured to sit with the year representatives from the school council to hear their ideas and thoughts on how we can make our school even better. The students were very eloquent and put across the different opinions of their year groups in such a respectful manner. They truly modelled what we would want to see from our student leaders. I value these moments with the students and respect their honesty - it is only through honesty and transparent communication that we can continue to improve.

The last few weeks have been challenging for us as a school community, the unfortunate and sudden passing of one of our lovely teaching assistants affected everyone in the school. However, out of every moment of darkness, we have to look for light. For me, it was 5 year 11 students, who approached me in the corridor that morning, to check if I was ok - their empathy was something that I will never forget. Their kindness was mirrored across the entire school and I don't think I have ever, in 20 years of teaching, seen such a 'coming together' of a school community.

I would just like to end by saying thank you to all parents and carers. Our students are polite, respectful and understanding because you have brought them up to be the kind individuals that they are. Thank you for trusting us with their education.

I hope you all have a wonderful, relaxing and peaceful holiday and look forward to seeing you all in the New year.



**Mrs K Cooney**

### Dates for you diary

- Monday 8th January  
2024 Teacher training day
- Tuesday 9th January  
2024 Return to school  
8:30am
- Wednesday 10th  
January 2024 Year 11  
parents coffee morning

## Year 7 have festive fun!

Our Year 7s have had a fantastic time in December! They all decorated a wooden decoration for our Christmas trees, and wrote messages about global peace, family love and friendship and gratitude for all to see. Well done, Year 7, the tree looks amazing!



## Year 7 have festive fun!

*A special thank you to all the Year 7 Review Tutors and support staff who helped with the decorations and on the trip.*

We also visited The Crescent Theatre on 5th December to see a production of 'A Christmas Carol' by Charles Dickens. The Year 7s are studying this in

English and thoroughly enjoyed their theatre visit. One student said she liked "being with her friends on the

coach, in the theatre and buying ice cream best of all!" Other students said that the play was "funny and a bit scary in parts", "really festive and I liked all the dancing on stage" and "the costumes were beautiful."

We also took four of our Year 12 overseas students with us on the trip; they have come from Italy and Argentina and Mrs Peniket thought they would love to see a play in an English theatre. They had a fantastic time joining our Year 7s!

From **Mrs Peniket**



## CRESCENT THEATRE - A CHRISTMAS CAROL

A Christmas Carol recounts the story of Ebenezer Scrooge, an elderly miser who is visited by the ghost of his former business partner Jacob Marley and the spirits of Christmas Past, Present and Yet to Come. On Tuesday, 5th December, Year 7 of KEVI Lordswood School for Girls went to the Crescent Theatre to watch a play that warms the heart of others. As we entered the foyer a trickle of excitement sparked in our minds and thoughts what could come next with delicious

treats to snack on during the interval.

The actor who played as an outstanding Scrooge never failed to bring the fellow audience humour. This story was brought to life with many exuberant scenic moments and gave a special Christmas feel to the young and old viewers. Even when a few minor incidents happened during the play the performers bounced back and created an extra moment of elation for the audience.

**Kiyha B 7L**



## Introducing the Arts Ambassadors.

The following students have been elected to represent the drama department and Arts Ambassadors this year.

**Alisa A**  
**Mya K B**  
**Shambhavi S**  
**Bethan S**  
**Jaya C**  
**Kapreec M**  
**Aiesha R**  
**Lauren W**  
**Sonia A**  
**Tia C**  
**Simran K C**  
**Anna O-G**

As arts ambassadors we have a

mission. A mission to enhance drama across the curriculum. We are currently a group of twelve ambitious students-four in year 7, 8 and 9.

We are taking part in several visits to the hippodrome theatre to learn more about drama and we hope to share these experiences with you.

We have meetings once a fortnight to determine ways to involve everyone in these arts. One of the things we plan to do is take fundraisers to spread the awareness of arts throughout an improved curriculum. Our first job was to support a music concert which took place on Thursday 14th. We had about seven acts- each of which was

worked on in the drama club.as well as this we had also done things which are more practical: serving refreshments, SSw showing people to their seats and backstage help. Ayesha and Bethan.

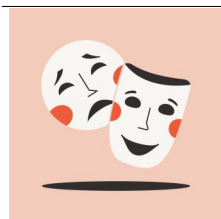
## All about our Year 7 Drama Lessons

On the 15th of November our school's arts ambassadors went to the Hippodrome theatre and enjoyed several games with Emily (the freelance director). The students who went said they enjoyed activities like 7,(which is a game where if you go over seven you are out and it is also if your hand goes the wrong way you are out). We also completed a dancing task and they talked about what drama is and ideas how to bring drama into the arts world. We all had a great time at the Hippodrome and we have lots of ideas to start working on before our next meetings on

Tuesday 28th February and Wednesday 12th June 2024. Shambhavi s and Alisa A



## All about our Year 7 Drama Lessons - What we have been doing and the Challenges faced!



In my drama lessons we have been learning about how we perform plays, designing costumes and

organizing concerts. We are also learning what we should use in our acts such as "Thought tracking , Still image and Hot seating" . Thought tracking is when a character is saying their thought or feelings

Still image is staying in a position for a period of time to show what you are doing instead of acting it out .

Hot seating is when a character is getting interviewed by a student or a teacher to be able to explore the character's background .

Some of the challenges I faced were the understanding of how hot seating actually worked. I overcame this by practicing with my group. Another challenge I faced was also having the time to practice altogether in our

group. Overall I am finding the drama lessons extremely interesting and I enjoy learning new strategies in Drama.

**Written by Mya K-B 7W**



## Year 8 drama review

Some people think that drama is pointless, doesn't add any life skills to students, and should be removed from the curriculum. This is not true, at all. To emphasise this point, I've asked some students who love drama to tell us why.

Self confidence

Drama is great for building self confidence, and being comfortable when giving a performance, and is actually (in my experience) the only subject that lets students do that. But don't just take it from me.

**Sukhmani K** says "Drama gives you the opportunity to stand up in front of your peers and gives you the chance to experience public speaking."

**Zosia P** says "Drama helps you build self confidence, and if you were to stand up to deliver a speech and/or performance, it would give you the strength to do so."

**Maysoon S** says "It helps my self confidence by letting me put myself in someone else's shoes, which also helps me develop empathy."

Developing Friendships

While working on scenes in drama lessons, students have to converse with their peers, as they share ideas for their piece, and rehearse for the performances they do in front of the class. But listen to the views of students who agree with this :

**Emily S** says "Drama brings me closer to my peers as I have to work with them alot and share our opinions and on how we plan to act out different scenes. This also helps me get to know new people, and discover new ways and techniques of acting."

**Zoe P** says "It brings me closer to them because it helps each of us to incorporate each others ideas and strength, which brings us all closer

together"

**Aiesha R** says "Drama brings me closer to my peers, as we can take our ideas and put them together to create something great, and when my peers evaluate it, we all learn from each other."

Comfort Zones

Comfort zones are a big part of life.

We need to step outside of them once in a while for our brains to experience new things and understand what it's like to try something new. But instead of listening to me go on and on about this, listen to students who agree with this statement.

**Caitlan** says "Drama pushes you out of your comfort zone because "

## GCSE Drama Curriculum review

We have been learning to devise. We have been able to explore a variety of stimuli to do this. During these lessons I have developed my social skills and worked effectively as a team. This has been a great opportunity to make friendships within the class and forge strong working relationships. We have experimented with props, experimenting with different ideas to develop our creativity and self-expression through drama. We have also been studying theatre practitioners as a starting point for our component 1 examinations in

the summer term. I have enjoyed looking at the German practitioner, poet and playwright Bertolt Brecht, alongside the British born Emma Rice.

Brecht's epic theatre aims to alienate the audience and allow them to focus on the message of the play.

Rice's technique of transposing; taking the text and putting in a contemporary setting has proved to be both challenging and interesting.

The focus on creating our own original work this term has opened up our eyes to a range of styles and

approaches that we can utilize.

## 'Everybody's Talking About Jamie'

Year 11 saw a production of 'Everybody's Talking About Jamie' at the Birmingham Hippodrome for their component 3 live theatre examination. The students really engaged with the production and its messages about individuality and acceptance. It was great to see the emotional response of some students and once again highlighted the power the arts can have to impact our everyday lives.

Going to see 'Everybody's Talking about Jamie' elaborated my skills as a drama student. The powerful lighting and marvelous songs overpowered the audience. The

projection of the pre-recorded video of the new character 'Mimi Me' was one of the moments of the show that I will never forget. Also, the idea of using one piece of set to create different atmospheres in different scenes was fascinating. In the musical, they used a simple school desk to create this effect. The show as a whole was a roller-coaster of emotions and was full of LGBTQ+ pride. I am very thankful to be able to have an opportunity such as this one.

**Eve G11L**



## Devising workshop

10 Drama students enjoyed their workshop with Corey Weekes, as part of a project with the Birmingham Hippodrome for our forthcoming visit to see 'Come From Away.' They explored different improvisation techniques that they can utilise when devising their own work for their practical examination.

I really enjoyed the workshop- I felt that it helped me to improve my creativity in the way I devise and enjoyed the various games and activities that were used to

help us get into character.

**Jess Year 10**



## Year 8 and Year 9 Netball Team



The Year 8 and Year 9 Netball Team has had an incredible start to their season! After winning their first match, against Selly Park Girls' School 18-0; they went on to secure a victory against Swanshurst. The team then won a closely fought contest against Bartley Green, on 21st December 2023. Well done girls!

**Mrs Uffindall**

## Food Bank

Thank you to all our parents, students and staff for all their generous donations to the food collection that has been donated. Once again the Lordswood Community have pulled together and donated lots of items to Salma Food Bank located in Smethwick. More info about the Charity here :<https://www.salma-foodbank.org/>



## Sociology and Politics

Sociology and Politics newsletter  
This term we took a group of year 13 politics and sociology students to visit the Houses of Parliament and Supreme Court in London. The trip involved attending a guided tour and talk about the role of the Supreme Court, supplementing the study of the Supreme Court as part of the A Level Politics course. We then went to the Houses of Parliament where we took part in a tour and question and answer session with Lord Hunt of Kings Heath. The trip also gave the student the chance to attend a session of the House of Lords. The students who attended found this very engaging, and a very useful opportunity to apply their knowledge and understanding from the classroom

to the real life examples within parliament.



## Rights Respecting Schools Award

We Are a Silver Aware Rights Respecting School thanks to the amazing accomplishments that the Rights Respecting Ambassadors have achieved over the past few years. The first step was to achieve the Bronze and now that we are a Silver school the next step is Gold.

The aim of a Rights Respecting School is to develop and share knowledge of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, as drawn up by the UN in 1990. The rights of the child underpin the ethos here at LSG and our Rights Respecting ambassadors, alongside the work of staff, ensure that the articles from the

UNCRC are shared, understood and applied to our learning within the school community.

The current ambassadors are; year 7- **Aleezay A** and **Farwah B**; year 8-**Liyna V**, **Romessa K** and **Maysoon S**; year 9-**Ella B**,**Esme S**, **Ivalyn f** and **JQ**; in year 10- **Taiwasa M** and **Urwa H**. The team and I meet regularly to develop ideas to raise the understanding of the UNCRC through resources during form time as well as developing lessons for the PSHCE programme. The current campaign that is being rolled out is on the topic of sustainability so that our students are aware of their role as

global citizens. As well as delivering assemblies, the team have arranged fundraising events such as the staff versus students football match. This will be organised again so that further funds can be raised for children who are denied rights around the world.

I would like to thank the team for their amazing commitment and dedication to achieving the Gold award.

Rights Respecting Schools co-ordinator,  
Mrs Hartland

## Design & Technology is back.

It's back!!

After being absent from the school curriculum for a while, design & technology is back.

The students have been welcomed into a fabulous newly refurbished room which will allow them to be creative and have access to some great resources in order to realise their ideas. Resources include a laser cutter, 3D printers, sewing machines and a heat press. Over the key stage students will have the opportunity to develop their skills and use some of the fabulous equipment. Students have already used

the sewing machines and will be designing and making their own wooden gift using CAD and the laser cutter that could be sold at Dudley Zoo gift shop. I am really looking forward to seeing some great products which I will be sharing with you later in the school year.

Lots of students have been asking about food and when they are going to be cooking. The answer is, yes, students will get to focus on food and cooking a little later in the school year and they will be cooking some great dishes which I know you will enjoy eating at home.

Mrs Faulkner



## MFL DEPARTMENT

The MFL department held a week of fun and educational activities in celebration of the European Day of Languages on September 26th. Students from all year groups participated in engaging events throughout the week aimed at highlighting the importance of language learning.

Year 7 students enjoyed a treasure hunt around the school searching for clues related to European languages and cultures.

Year 8 and 9 students completed a "Find Someone Who" activity where they asked staff questions about languages to find matches based on staff members' unique language

experiences.

Year 10 and 11 students had rich discussions centered around inspirational quotes about language learning. Analysing these thought-provoking quotes pushed students to think more deeply about the significance of studying languages. To cap it all off, Year 7 students showcased their artistic abilities and language knowledge by entering a European poster competition organised by the Global Alliance school partnership program. It was an engaging week for all of our students.

Well done everybody!



## Maths

I would like to say a huge well done to our year 11s for their efforts during the recent mock maths exams. Their commitment to revision was fantastic, with many students making the most of lunch time clubs and after school sessions. Lunchtime maths club is a great place for students to get help with their maths, to do some extra revision or for a quiet place to complete maths homework - with support from a teacher. I would encourage any student in any year group to come

along to room 117 on a Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday lunchtime (students just need to get a sticker from the maths office before lunchtime).

Our year 7s have settled in nicely to their new maths groups and seem to be particularly enjoying the Numeracy Ninja 5 minute challenges – every week there are more and more Black Belt Ninjas! I would also like to say a huge well done to all of the KS3 students that are participating in our Maths -Whizz programme - the effort and

progress by many has not gone unnoticed!

Shortly after Christmas we will be asking students if they would like to get involved in the UKMT Maths Challenge, a national competition where students test their ability to apply maths against students from all over the country (last year nearly 250,000 students took part nationally!). Watch out for these invitations.

## Equality, diversity and inclusion



EQUALITY  
DIVERSITY  
INCLUSION

EDI stands for equality, diversity and inclusion and is key to building an environment where all students feel like they belong and are accepted.

This year the EDI reps are **Oreoluwa A, Jaiya K, Angelica H, Misha I, Martha G,**

**Rahima S, Arnika M, Seraphine A and Aliza M.**

Over the past year, we have met up with all the EDI reps from the other schools in the Academy Trust and discussed how EDI can be integrated more into schools. At the last meeting, we were set the task of making resources about women who have changed the world in a multitude of different ways and these resources will be delivered to students soon. Additionally, these resources will be put into a shared folder which all schools across the Trust can access. The resources are as follows;

Women in education, gender equality, Neurodiversity from the view of a neurodiverse person – their experiences of the school day and the difficulties they face, Women's opportunities and experiences to promote ideas, equality and language used, Culture Day and how different cultures can be celebrated.

The EDI Team and Mrs Uffindall



## Toxicology Trip

Year 11 students had the privilege of attending a talk by Professor Michael Coleman, Aston University, about his role as a professor and researcher in the field of toxicology. The students learnt about how he designs models to study the human brain without the use of animals. He also discussed how his research can be applied to Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease medicines.

I have an external speaker, Professor Michael Coleman, who is coming to Northfield School for Girls to give a talk about his role as a professor

and researcher in the field of toxicology.

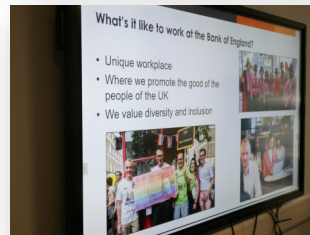
In his talk he will touch on his experience working in a university but focus mainly on his role as a researcher and how this is a team activity. He will look how he designs methods to study the human brain and how he does this without the use of animals. He will discuss how research takes place in real life and how this research can be applied to Alzheimer's and Parkinson's medicines etc. He will also touch on the changes in learning approaches from school to university. There will

of course be an opportunity for Q&A at the end of the talk.



## Yr 13's learn about the role of the Bank of England

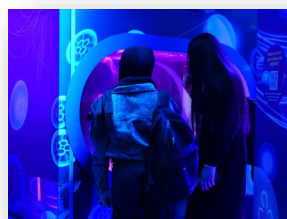
Business students were able to get an insight into jobs, apprenticeships and careers within the Bank of England as their representative Daniel Bowman led a session on his role whilst enlightening students on fiscal policies allowing students to have a better understanding of how the external environment will impact businesses on our high street.



## Yr 11 head to Lego Discovery and Sealife Centre

Students experienced the joys of Merlins Lego Discover and Sealife Centre. Students investigated the market segmentation of the Birmingham Attractions, looked at lego product placement within the Sealife centre, pricing strategies to

visit the attractions and Merlin as a brand.





## 6th form business students enjoy the excitement of Birmingham's German Markets

Birmingham has hosted the Christmas Markets for 22 years, students in the Alevel & BTEC were able to visit the 'physical market' in support of their studies. The students had the time to explore the market, enjoy Birmingham's culture and investigate why it has been an attraction enticing millions of visitors each year. On return they discussed the market segments and demographics the market attracts and also the

revenue the market generates for the local businesses.



## Yr 10 have festive fun at Cadbury World

The business department arranged their annual visit to Cadbury World, Yr 10 sampled the chocolate, experienced the tourist attraction and were able to learn about the history of Birmingham's Chocolatier and Bourneville. They also engaged in a marketing talk, where students had the opportunity to learn about

branding, packaging, the product portfolio and ownership of Cadbury.



## Yr 12 Parent Information Evening

At the beginning of term parents and carers of year 12 students were invited to attend a parent information evening. During the evening Mrs Leadbetter, Director of Post 16 Studies outlined what the next two years would look like for our new

sixth form students. Central to the vision of the sixth form are the schools core values: Ready, Respectful and Resilient. Our core values underpin every aspect of school life, including our approach to behaviour and rewards,

enrichment, preparation for life after sixth form and academic success. Further information about the sixth form can be found on the sixth form section on the school website.

## Yr 12 head out Tenpin bowling

Students got competitive, socialised and had fun with their peers- we even had a few strikes!!!

Through being an external to the 6th form, the recent bowling trip provided the perfect opportunity to be able to socialise and form friendships with others. The event was also mixed between both year 12s and 13s meaning that there were a range of people. The event helped me socialise through providing friendly competition outside of a

school environment, Similarly, it was a great way to have fun with new friends and to enjoy time together. Maya Kapil Yr 12



## Careers Fayre

Year 12 students attended the UK University Search Fair at the Edgbaston Stadium in October to kickstart their post 18 plans. Representatives from all the major universities, employers and apprenticeship providers were present

across three exhibition floors. Students also attended workshops and talks on the following topics: UCAS Personal Statement, Why take an Apprenticeship, University Life & Courses, Russell Group University, Higher & Degree

Apprenticeships. Students found the day extremely useful in helping them to understand the possible options available to them when they leave sixth form.

## A trip to Oxford

As part of our Academic Aspirations programme Mr Lovejoy and Mrs Leadbetter took 13 students to Keble College, Oxford to find out more about life at Oxford University and to get some top tips for applying. Students were lucky enough to

get a tour of both Keble College and Magdalen College and were also treated to a meal in the Keble College Dining Room (very reminiscent of the dining hall at Hogwarts!). Current Keble students discussed their own experiences and gave stu-

dents a real insight into what it means to be a student at Oxford university.



## Enrichment Activities

Taking part in academic aspirations as part of the enrichment programme has been an extremely enlightening experience. During these sessions we were able to understand how to stand out in terms of university applications and flourish in our academics in terms of super-curriculars. In addition to this, we were delivered presentations about philosophical, political and social dilemmas that have helped enhance my thought process as pupils yet also as individuals that are keen on thinking beyond conventional per-

spective. Alongside this, as students every lesson we were given time to deliver presentations regarding a subject we are keen about and this allowed my peers and I to take out a creative side of ourselves, simultaneously allowing some to gain skills such as confidence and others to strengthen it. A key aspect of these sessions that we looked forward to as a class were the group discussions in which we were allowed to share views regarding certain phenomena. It was inter-

esting to appreciate the diversity of thought and understand alternative outlooks towards certain issues. On the whole, enrichment was purposeful as an enriching experience  
Noor Fatima

## Italian for Beginners

**Italian for Beginners**  
As an exchange student, I found it interesting that Lordswood would have Italian available as an enrichment. I've personally had a lot of fun learning subjects such as food, numbers, money, and how to order food. I also enjoyed the small group as it made the class more tailored. Overall,

I'm glad I chose this enrichment.  
Marisa Kelly Yr 12

Doing Italian as an enrichment has helped me develop the foundations of the language. We've learnt a range of things from food items to telling the time, è fantastico. Trovo che voglio continuare.

**Apollo W Year 12**



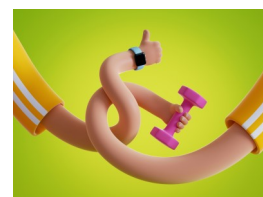
## Fit & Flexible

The fit and flexible lessons have been very productive. Mrs Uffindall always explains what exercises we'll be doing and how it benefits us before we begin, which is useful if anyone would like to continue at home. Furthermore, we've learnt

different types of fitness and the exercises within - this was emphasised when we planned our own lessons (theory work during mocks). Most importantly, personally, I believe I am definitely more fit and healthy now compared to

September. Overall, it is a fun enrichment choice as well as beneficial.

**Aamina H**





## Stitching

Very enjoyable as it helped me relax. The sessions were very calming and I learnt new skills.

You get taught various stitches like cross, walking and backstitch, learning the techniques of these and then using the skills you have learnt to design and make your own embroidery hoop with the stitches you have learnt.

**Ayesha Saddiq**

During stitching enrichment, I have learnt patience doing a time-consuming activity.

Stitching takes time and effort all while being laid back at the same time. I particularly enjoyed designing my art piece as I had freedom to choose which colours I wanted to incorporate which shows you have a say in what you create. I would recommend stitching if you want to build patience or if you enjoy designing.

**Laila Mowled**



## Personal Finance

Throughout my first Term at Lordswood Girls Sixth Form I picked Personal Finance as my enrichment. All the class lessons me and my classmates have had with Mr Kler have been very engaging and captivating, we have learnt about sav-

ings and investments which has helped me as an individual to budget my finances and independently spend without worrying about the future. We have also just learnt about Insurances and their purposes.

**Karam S Dhillon**



## Yr 11 Taster Day

Following the open evening all of year 11 were off timetable to experience being sixth formers for the day. This is an important day to help our students make valuable choices on the courses they wish to go on to study. Students chose 5 subjects to try out from our wide range of courses on offer. They were based in the sixth form block all day to get a real taste of life in the sixth form. Talking to the students afterwards it was wonderful to hear how much they had enjoyed their day and

how the lessons had either confirmed or changed their choices. Applications for the sixth form opened in November. The deadline for internal applications was Tuesday 19th December. It is fantastic to see the high number of applications from our year 11 students who wish to continue their educational journey with us and be our school leaders of the future.



## Open Evening

On November 22nd the sixth form block opened its doors to prospective students and parents to give them an idea of what our fantastic sixth form has to offer. The atmosphere was wonderful. Each room in the sixth form was buzzing with visitors talking to current students and



teachers about the courses on offer. Mrs Leadbetter gave a talk outlining the core values of the sixth form, our procedures, success and application process. She was assisted by Head Student Tiffany To and Deputy Head Student Shavi B who gave inspirational speeches on their experiences in the sixth form and what the sixth form means to them.



## 6th form get festive at Birmingham Ice

We all thoroughly enjoyed it when we attended the trip to ice skating . It was an enjoyable time where we could all de-stress and socialise . It allowed me to feel more confident and outgoing and explore a new activitie . We are all very appreciative that the sixth form team organised this festive treat so we could spend quality time with our friends and have a great time and

create memories.  
**Mariama and Asiyah**

